

REMARKS

The Election of Species Requirement

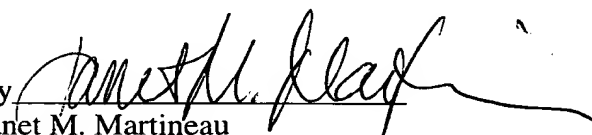
Pursuant to Paper No. 20040109, mailed January 22, 2004, the Examiner has required an election of species under 35 U.S.C. §121 of one of the following species: METH-1 and METH-2. The Examiner contends that the species are patentably distinct. The Examiner has also noted that claims 1-4 are generic and notes that upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants are entitled to consideration of claims to additional species.

Applicants elect the specie of METH-2, without traverse. The elected specie is readable on claims 1-4 and new claims 5-8. Pursuant to MPEP §809.02, Applicants understand that upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species, i.e., to METH-1.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 08-3425. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should be charged to our Deposit Account.

Dated: February 20, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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